

MS. A. 5. 2. 25. 87

deardest Miss Weston, in writing. I feel as if we  
remain in not sooner acknowledging your interesting  
letters; but I assure you that want of time & your  
the superfluity of our materials is the <sup>only</sup> cause of our  
silence. By dearth of hard struggles I have just been  
able to accompany the printed papers with which  
we have furnished. Not many as they came out, with  
a skeleton report of our doings, but have never found  
leisure for a word of detail. ~~now~~ on the themes  
that were abounding us both, still less for the quiet  
communication with you for which I have been long  
insufficient is where to begin, when so many things  
prop & useful to deply on them all. It is no source  
of wonder to me that you express yourself with all  
the strength of which language is capable in your  
indignant comments on the present attitude of  
legislators, merchants, churches, & clergy in your  
land. My only wonder is at the patience, not the  
impatience of the American Abolitionists, <sup>especially</sup> see  
ing Follen & the famous for instance, two of the best  
tempered men I know, lost all their wonted gentle-  
ness in the course of five minutes conversation  
with Russell Carpenter, or some of the same class who  
have like him been taken in by the Boston clergy. <sup>Two</sup>  
gent ~~at the~~ especially to these men leaving home  
for the slave. <sup>you can keep your men at all.</sup> Oh you would be astonished if you  
could see the brisk warfare we are perpetually <sup>waged</sup>  
in, how we now have the ire of John Scoble &c on

one side, Mrs Richardson & her followers in their  
"Free Labor" capacity on another, & the leaders of the  
Unitarian denomination, whom we have just  
roused from their heavy slumber on a third.  
We are not looking <sup>for</sup> ~~for~~ results from these threefold  
strifes; but cannot hold back our energies whether  
there is an opening for attacking & exposing error, spreading  
light, or awakening to thought. It may reach some  
quarter where greater strength to wield the weapons  
needed in this contest ~~with~~ exists, but <sup>where</sup> the duty of  
girding on the armor of faith had not hitherto been  
seen to be imperative. But if <sup>we</sup> all fail to accomplish  
anything in opposition to the fearful ills now ~~dealing~~  
your country, it is <sup>our</sup> the only means of bearing the  
sad contemplation of those woes, to be devoting all  
our strength to testifying against them & to inspiring  
others with our own horror of them. I can never feel  
as if the accident of birth made the slightest difference  
in the responsibility of every individual for the sufferings  
of every other with whose lot circumstances make  
him acquainted. The knowledge we have of the sinfulness  
- ~~of~~ of the system of American Slavery & the modes by  
which the system is sustained, joined to the  
means placed within our reach for diffusing that  
knowledge has made the slaves of the Southern  
States our nearest neighbors. We could no more  
feel justified than you could in keeping silence  
whenever we can make our voices heard in their  
behalf. Of course we experience the difficulty which  
remoteness from the scene of action <sup>of others</sup> ~~products~~ <sup>causes</sup> in fixing  
attention <sup>of others</sup> ~~as to~~ to practical results of the  
most important features. Still the horror seems  
deepening; the iniquity of the <sup>existing</sup> Slave law more

generally recognized & understood in this country  
than it was some months ago. Wherever the  
Crafts have been a strong Anti-slavery feeling, as  
well as a warm sympathy for their pecuniarily  
is sure to be created. You could not have sent  
better missionaries. The sad causes of their being  
among us tempers the joy with which they  
would in any other circumstances be welcome  
to English homes & hearts, but this very circum-  
stance is I think<sup>for</sup> the most important feature  
in their case, & that which leads to the most  
efficient & earnest reflection. I must not  
enter on any details of their visit to us or of the  
useful work they have been & are effecting,  
nor how closely Ellen has wound herself round our  
affections & enlisted our sympathy, if I do there will  
be no more space for more public matters, & as every  
one promised to treat this theme to you I feel it  
ought in better hands. I did allude slightly to the crafts  
in a hurried account of our meeting to Mr May a fortnight  
ago, but as you are in a different region now you  
will not probably have benefited by the various & very  
communications with which I have troubled him.  
There is something unreal in the thought of both  
(or at least Plymouth) without you being there, though  
you are happier with your brother, I shall be console  
to hear of your being at home again. It grieved us to learn  
that your brother's health had again given way, the  
Paris party wrote so hopefully about him that we  
flattered ourselves his trip has re-established him.  
That party have I suppose made amends for their  
neglect of you by their despatches on Henry Chapman  
et cetera. It will be a great treat to us to feel these

within a few hours journey of the limits of  
hurry postage, tho' it remains to be seen how  
far they will avail themselves of these facilities  
for intercourse. We have as yet no proof whatever  
that either Anna or Lizzie know how to write  
Davy Father is "almost sure they can't." So you are  
not alone in your trials, tho' you certainly have  
more right to denounce them than we. What  
movements may be I know not. I hope we shall  
go to London while they are all there, but we shall  
wait for "way to open," & seldom go anywhere but w/  
some duty calls. The renewal of the old annual  
contest with the pro-slavery Unitarians at their  
anniversary meeting in June will probably draw  
us once more to that scene of action, but it is  
one of the poorest soils on which seed was ever sown  
to be sown, too unimpreffible to interest me; &  
it is <sup>however</sup> worth teasing them with my Father's speech  
w/ they used to solicit, & how long to be free from  
just to prevent their introducing one flat  
word into their report respecting their highly  
esteemed brethren in the U. States &c. We have  
just been ignominiously beaten off the field in a  
"Unitarian Christian Union" it is called, but the  
way in wch the discussion of the slavery question  
was scouted, deemed irrelevant &c &c makes  
union of those two terms of very dubious prop.  
I hope a full report of the proceedings of this meet  
at Bridgewater will appear in the next Inquirer  
if so we will forward it to Mr May. You will be  
able to see the familiar story re-enacted. On the  
whole we are rather glad it was set aside in an  
unfair electioneering kind of manner, instead of  
being plausibly run down as it might have been with

Ms. A. 1. 2. 25. 87

9  
the help of B. Carpenter & a few London & other  
ministers who are in full sympathy with the  
Bostonian Clergy. Now we shall try to stir  
up each congregation to take action on the  
ground of the refusal of the Western Union,  
my Father declares "he'll leave that body in  
London before he has done". We make much  
greater way in the matter with the Baptists  
& Congregationalists in our present agitation,  
so that my heart is chiefly with them, & if I  
could overcome certain <sup>societies</sup> invincible intellectual  
obstacles I shd. be a ready convert to their  
I must not condemn our own ministers in a <sup>way</sup> ~~way~~  
however, for if you had seen the melancholy  
w<sup>t</sup> seized Mr. James at having exception taken  
to what he deemed the most vital part of his  
report, & the fury of Mr. Chapman <sup>(on hearing the result of the meeting)</sup> & Mr. Austin,  
the mild & solemn earnestness <sup>with which</sup> of Mr. Thos.  
Hincks (whose speech on the question was  
interrupted most ungraciously) warned the meeting  
they were wanting in <sup>in</sup> their duty to the suffering  
fugitive, & he declared that if such a Christian  
claim was "irrelevant" in a "Christian Union"  
his interest in that "Union" was ended, you  
will have said there were a few faithful spirits  
worthy their vocation & profession. But it  
was refreshing to find the unanimity of the  
horror at the pro-slavery D. Do manifested by  
the orthodox dissenters in Bristol, kindled into

vigorous action by our circulating the "Clerical Teachings among them, how <sup>painful</sup> a sense of duty seemed to compel them to come forward & denounce the conduct of many whole names they had long held in reverence. Those who could not take part in the Anti-slavery meeting on account of having to attend their "Union" expressed much regret, as you will have seen, set to work there, <sup>in the proungry</sup> vented their protest. Long to know what you think of the report of that Bristol A. S. meeting. We look upon it as an important one, calculated to renew & concentrate the warmth of A. S. feeling here which we had been for some time fostering. The report of my Father's speech in the B. Examiner will give you the greatest satisfaction, I think it was a "Mercury" I directed to you at New York. It will have been widely circulated in all places where W. Brown & the Crafts have been or will be, & the resolutions in many other quarters. We kept these in our hands, only admitting Mr. James to our council to help in the wording of the two first & Miss Tribe to find the right ministers for proposing them; <sup>days</sup> having fixed on several of the best names, she & I called others as if deputed from some important Committee of arrangers for the meeting to request them to take part. It is an old trick of ours to be dreadfully like Dickens's "Anglo-Bengalee ~~or~~ <sup>or</sup> the Assurance Company" in our procedure; but do you not think my Father's effrontery in turning our manacures to convert the existing "Ladies Society" into a tool for passing a resolution by means of which Miss Tribe & I, being empowered by these same unsuspecting old ladies to act as lub committee for carrying it into effect, - having been raising a commotion in every religious ~~assembly~~ Congregational & Baptist district & General meeting, since held in the land, & are still stirring the dissenting bodies in all parts, & dragging even the "Reporter" (Obstructor was entitled) in our wake - was unparalleled, to permit his suggesting a vote of thanks to us for this very deed! It is just like a lurid one of this town who was never heard of till a great flourish appeared in the newspaper about a handsome testimonial of plate <sup>offered</sup> with a laudatory inscription received by him for his great services to the poor & which testimonial was presented by himself! However having attained our end we don't

mind what is thought or known of the testimony  
we cannot but hope that a stronger feeling against  
the conduct of the <sup>American</sup> Clergy, & a greater determination to  
testify that feeling, & to lift them & not be taken in by  
the executors of their false position, is awakened.  
We shall be very glad to hear any considerations of  
yours on the probable influence of any of the above  
on your countrymen, for we have only your  
judgment to guide us. It seems to us the most  
probable way open to us at present of saving the  
cause. Dear Miss Weston how often I wish you were  
here, that you might see exactly how we are in-  
circumstances, what is the tone of the various parties  
with whom we have to deal, & the nature of our  
obstacles. There are some points of which I believe  
you would then take a different view. Ellen  
Craft says nothing has astonished <sup>her</sup> more than  
much as the amount of pro-slavery feeling among  
the English, the bigotry of the majority of professed  
Antislavery people, the small number of actual  
working Abolitionists. She maintains that they  
are greatly overestimated by you, & that you are  
not aware of the manifold difficulties with which  
we have to contend before we can get up any  
interest that will produce fruits. She quotes  
Rev. W. Phillips's speeches & the general tenor of the  
remarks made on British fellow labourers at  
your A. S. meetings, in proof of the correctness of her  
statement. On discriminating characters, appre-  
hending the bearings of questions, discerning peculiarities  
of circumstances, conditions &c. &c. Ellen is wonderfully  
accurate & penetrating that it would be hard not to repel  
confidence in her judgment, but it is almost as difficult  
to conceive of your <sup>poor</sup> forming incorrect conclusions or

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at the house of some cousins at Bridgewater, & happily able to get my Aunt to act as my substitute for our guests my Father, but knowing all the time he was getting overdone for want of the help of one but myself ~~can~~ affording, finding poor Brown's plans had been interfered with because I was not at hand to remind my Father what to write to the applicants from different towns, letters left unwritten, & resolutions waiting to be drawn up &c. &c. owing to this one misfortune, I tried hard to write to you from my exclusion last week, but finding my intellects partaking to a fearful extent of the weakened condition of my body, I relinquished the hope. A good deal of this was written there however, <sup>above mentioned</sup> all of it in bed, at intervals which have been filled up with some of the arrear writings &c. so if it is unusually desultory you must forgive it. I must send you the last Reporter to show with what a humble acknowledgement of conscious guilt they have accepted my Father's reproofs of apathy &c. & blazoned forth the good deeds <sup>of the</sup> ~~he scolded them~~ for not having earlier performed. I am delighted that Scoble did not venture on a vindication of himself at this moment, for I still grieve to have <sup>of the</sup> stream of indignation against the American Clergy weakened by any quibbles among the professed Anti-slavery party. The Quakers w<sup>t</sup> all have tried to retract, & many other timid ones have taken flight. The door is <sup>now</sup> still open for exposing Mr. Scoble, my Father has a curious correspondence on hand with a defender of the B. & T. A. S. Society. You shall see the letter w<sup>t</sup> is to be published in the next Bristol Examiner. Our great work now is with the Unitarians of whom the muffled bell at Walltown and the general tolling upon fine is as typical in England as America

There has been no other opening for it. Mr. Paton  
wrote my Father the particulars he gave Mr. Garrison,  
but his story led my Father (before we had enquired  
respecting the <sup>right</sup> ~~soiree~~ from Mr. Brown) to tell Mr.  
P. in reply that he thought Brown & Craft <sup>had</sup> not  
with propriety have acted differently. The arrange-  
ments for the <sup>soiree</sup> were made by the Wighams,  
whom W. B. & Craft knew to be Mr. Garrison's stead-  
fast friends, & they felt they had no right to refuse  
compliance with the conditions <sup>in their opinion</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>which</sup> these friends  
had made for the sake of doing <sup>the</sup> ~~in~~ most good to  
the cause. They said to Miss W. that they <sup>w<sup>t</sup> prefer</sup>  
not being on a platform with Pennington; but  
when she represented that the visitors that evening  
who were nearly all his warm admirers would  
feel aggrieved by his not being admitted to a place  
there, that he would surely make a handle of  
his exclusion to increase the disaffection, they  
had nothing more to urge, but confiding in her  
judgement, merely prepared themselves to silence  
Pennington if he ventured to lay a hostile word.  
As it was I believe he did not speak at all. Mr.  
Paton had previously given Brown & C. full  
instructions ~~what they were to say~~, <sup>which</sup> differed  
from Miss Wigham's which they felt bound to  
obey, then when he found his directions not  
followed, he scolded them in no measured terms  
so if Brown did write a little cropply I think he  
must be pardoned. This is our version of the affair  
<sup>166</sup> we have talked much with Brown & Craft about it  
but this they have raised our impressions of their good

lence & faithfulness to the best interests of the cause, they have merely confirmed the views we originally took of the requirements <sup>in this instance</sup> of their peculiar position. With more time I think I'd make clear the necessity for conduct which at your distance from the parties concerned in it may seem "compromising" & be however at the expense of suddenly <sup>giving</sup> ~~giving~~ a revelation of the extent of the horror & antipathy against Mr. Garrison which has been & sedulously fostered among all the Quakers, & other people all over the country, for which I believe you are not prepared. We are ever on the watch for means of dispelling these falsehoods, & find signs of way opening for us in many directions; you must try to be patient as well as we, I trust to those who have loved him by you, & whose hearts are in ~~face~~ the work to fight the battle of freedom in what ~~they~~ <sup>is</sup> the way most likely to secure victory. I lighted upon a letter of my Father to Miss Wigham which was just going to be sent off, on my return from B. R. water, I persuaded my Aunt to copy it, for your benefit, just as a sample of our mode of treating these ticklish themes, & of our daily course of action; for few posts come in without some similar demand; so you will believe we do not let the subject rest. I wish we could "cheat you" into "notions of a little postage" that I might send you specimens of the letters that come in at the rate of  $\$0.08$  a day. You would understand more from them than from the most lengthened explanation I could give. But for the present I must stop. My conduct during the last 3 weeks has been so bad you would hardly tell so aggravating that I have been in consti-

X

MS. A. 4. 2. 25. 87

166  
without calculating any points. But your criticism on Miss Wigham's conduct & that of Mr. Broadbent in connection with the Edinburgh affairs makes me tend more strongly to Ellen's opinion. It is not unnatural for you, having only the Paton's version of the matter, that is being exactly on the side in which your own sympathies & experience would carry you, to take the same strong view of Miss W.'s shortcomings as he does. Your sister terms her conduct a wicked compromise to the great disgrace of Mr. Webb, who is as zealous a defender of ~~the~~ motives & her steadfastness as the Master & himself. You will not accuse either of us of being compromising. I know this probably in your remissness from the scene of action. We shall fail to convey to you to our sentiments. If you were here I feel no fear of your appreciating the motives which influence people in circumstance as Miss Wigham is. I act as she does, from the perception that it is the only way of holding societies together, or keeping in existence the requisite machinery for carrying on any efficient Anti-slavery action. I agree with every word you say about the spirit of her organization, I have an instinctive recoil from every manifestation of it. Still I have no hope of extinguishing it here by starting with the violent measures you prescribe, the only hope is to keep pointing to your faithfulness, & as occasion presents itself convince people of the hypocrisy of one & all of your opponents. If out of 100 will not examine into the merits of the case, the two most "mischievous & hateful" "characteristics of duplicity & meanness" are consequently not susceptible of proof until people have been themselves taken

in which sooner or later they are sure to be by its ~~unifying~~  
while the religious cult, which is the phase its <sup>of</sup> of  
"bigotry" appears in this country, ousting all sympathy  
on its side. Pennington takes in all the good people  
in this way; he talks so finely about what he should  
do if he were recaptured; how he would not resist but  
believe it to be "the Lord's will;" & would devoted himself  
to preaching the Gospel &c. &c. to his brethren in Slavery  
Then he is so much affected at the hearing of the F. Slave  
Bill as to be fit to go crazy about it. This proof of  
sensibility is lauded highly by his adorers, one of  
whom asked Ellen Craft if it was not "beautiful in  
him," at which Ellen professes herself to have laughed  
most unfeeling, offering the commentator that  
the other husband had done right to "go crazy" about  
it, but it didn't hurt Pennington a bit. Now if we  
had started on a crusade against this man directly  
our suspicions were excited, we should simply have  
confirmed people in the belief that we were irre-  
ligious, & made them doubly disinclined to sym-  
pathize with you by showing our joint hostility to  
their idol; but by letting him alone, & keeping steadily to  
our own work people are learning from their own  
experience, what they would not have accepted  
from our testimony, <sup>at last</sup> The Quakers & others are finding  
out that Pennington has been taking them in, so our  
positive position is strengthened as it never could  
have been had not the exposure come from himself. It  
so it will be with Henson, & Garrett, the facts repre-  
senting whom we make no attempt to conceal, this  
we did not force them into notice till they could be  
in

fair easily corroborated. Poor Mr. Paton has been so aggravated by the muses, that he has no idea at present beyond pushing forward the claims of the American A. S. S. in season & out of season, without reference to the tone, temper, or enlightenment, or prejudices of the audience to whom the appeal is made. With an attachment to that Society equal to his, & an equal consciousness of the injustice done to it, we cannot take his view of the best mode of repairing the injury, & securing the cause the largest amount of permanent aid. If all who are in thorough sympathy with you in the three kingdoms were to unite together, & to repel all who are but partially informed, all who are but slightly or temporarily interested for the Slave, all whose religious prejudices or whose misconceptions would incline them to stand aloof from the movement on account of the masters' heresies &c. &c., <sup>some</sup> about a dozen or twenty powerless individuals would be all ~~the help~~ you could look to on this side the water to help you; & Scanty would be the contributions to the Bazaar, & at a stand all hopes of reviving & guiding usefully any general Anti-Slavery movement. There would be only a few stray "come outers" among the Quakers, & as many Unitarians left to do the work, all the orthodox dissenters would keep aloof, & every one in every condition who has any useful influence would withhold it from such suspected parties. At

Edinburgh nearly all the Committee are of the  
straightest religious sects, idolizers of Pennington  
Dr. Miss Wigham feels that if she & her mother  
withdrew from them these parties would put  
forth no efficient efforts, but might become mis-  
-cious opponents, while she would be destitute  
of the funds & other materials for carrying out  
work which the present organization affords.  
She is a gentle charitable nature, reluctant to the  
ill of people, but very discreet, with the character  
Quaker cautiousness. She may have given in  
much more to the prejudices of her allies than  
or I or Mr. Paton could have brought ourselves to  
but she is doing it all in the hope that the dis-  
affected towards the Bazaar will come round  
with a little patience. She says she thinks most  
of the parties feel the step of withdrawing from it  
was a wrong one, but she believes if left alone they  
will be retrieved, tho' there w<sup>ld</sup> be no chance of it if  
they were irritated. I know not what her under-  
impressions are now respecting Pennington,  
two months ago, <sup>but</sup> since the Report came out, when  
the Glasgow people began to expose him, she ex-  
horted to me as much grieved at the agitation  
believing P. was more sinned against than sin-  
ning thinking the mode of attack was the worst pos-  
-sible of attempting what she, & we, & they, had <sup>at</sup> equal  
at heart, the establishing the claims & merits of  
American A. S. S. on a firmer footing. We did  
not enter on the theme with her, & subsequently

Ms. A. 9. 2. 265 87

when I wrote last. The poor woman asked in her  
trifidation what had caused his elaborate design  
on the merits of Mr Garrison & the faults of the B.G.F. Soc  
when she had neither attacked the one nor defended the  
other? & though Father coolly upbraided her for her un-  
natural complaint, with declaring he did not  
mind having his concealed thoughts addressed  
any more than his expressed words, then alluding  
to the Quakers & saying how no Quaker ever had a  
good word for Mr Garrison. How natural it was  
for one Anti-slavery friend to dwell on his claim  
to justice when writing to another! I must not  
go on with details, but some half dozen letters past  
on each to do, & I am treasuring up for your letters  
edification whenever we meet. We presume they  
are arrived in London, <sup>now</sup> I have received a tempting  
invitation to meet them & Mr Toller at the house  
of our mutual friends the Parkers (who are about to  
leave London) as soon as a day can be fixed. I hope  
my Father will be able to avail himself of the treat, for  
he is getting over some of his winter delicacy, tho' he is  
still far from strong. I must be do my best for his  
pleasures, & stay quietly trying to clear up some ac-  
cumulating work, so as to have the enjoyment of the  
company with a free mind whenever it can be obtained.  
There are numbers of unanswered things in y<sup>r</sup> last  
last letters wh<sup>t</sup> are lost unnoticed from negligence,  
want of space. People's preference for sending things to  
Philadelphia instead of Boston did not arise from a  
care for the place, but a belief that different parties would  
have the management. However they are getting en-  
lightened as to the inefficacy of the Liberty party,  
the unsatisfactoriness of their contributions anywhere  
but at Boston. Your description of Mr Gay makes us  
sad, I wish I could have you here to sing to you a favorite little  
piece of ours that looks even to melt his case. Some day  
I will write out the words for you. Thank you for posting  
us with a list of y<sup>r</sup> virtues as well as foibles. My Father's  
friendship is as strong as ever, tho' he cannot contrive an  
honest avowal to prove it by frequent letters. I hope in

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6/ (Bristol Unitarians)  
We are getting up a Congregational Meeting to address  
the London one on the Ministerial question, & are sending  
to all the live ministers in other towns to beg them  
to do the same, & do to insure a disturbance in  
London, & the members of the Committee of that "Chris-  
tian Union" that I spoke of, who prepared the censured  
report have resigned their office with a dignified  
address to the subscribers stating their reasons for  
this course. We are very anxious to see what the  
Congregationalists will say at their approaching meet-  
ing. We have been importuning them most unceasingly  
all over the country; Mr. Massie helping us most  
energetically. Our labours (you will see in the Report)  
were not thrown away upon the Baptists, tho' their  
resolution is what Mr. Massie calls very tame; We  
sent our Bristol circular, accompanied by Clerical  
Teachings &c. to all the Anti-slavery Societies we could  
find out, requesting their imitation of us, & the  
Birmingham people have set to work vigorously,  
republishing our documents & circulating them widely.  
We are attacking the Methodists now. I am sure  
you must laugh at the idea of three people, or five  
if my Aunt & Mr. Massie are included, making  
all this confusion, but distance will cause us  
to be viewed thro' a multiplying glass. Mr. Webb's letter  
to the Standard of March 26, describing his visit to  
Bristol will keep up the illusion, for no one would  
suppose that he did not stir outside our house  
with us, & that not a single sympathizer called on  
us all the time. He reveals the tenor of our discourse  
in his allusions to the Reporter, & the Free Labor, &  
Garrett. Oh I wish you could read that correspondence  
with Mr. Richardson when Father was communicating